

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure including an absorbent core;

a side flap laterally extending from a side edge of said absorbent core;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion for getting in contact with a wearer's leg;

and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands toward the wearer's leg when a wearer wears said article, wherein

said free portion has a base line on said side flap, and comprises a standing portion extending from the base line toward a longitudinal centerline of said article, the free portion, other than the standing portion, folding laterally outward away from the longitudinal centerline at a predetermined folding portion to define a contacting portion for getting in contact with the wearer's leg,

each of said contacting portion, and standing portion is provided with at least one of said stretching members, and

when the wearer wears said article, said standing cuff stands toward the wearer's leg due to the stretching force of the stretching members, while the side flap between the side edge of the absorbent core and the base line is deformed.



27. (New) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure including an absorbent core, said absorbent structure being disposed between a liquid pervious sheet and a liquid impervious sheet;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion for getting in contact with a wearer's leg;  
and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands toward the wearer's leg when a wearer wears said article, wherein

said liquid impervious sheet outwardly extends beyond a side edge of said absorbent core to form a side flap,

said free portion has a base line on said side flap, and comprises a standing portion extending from the base line toward a longitudinal centerline of said article along a surface of said article including said liquid pervious sheet, the free portion, other than the standing portion, folding laterally outward away from the longitudinal centerline at a predetermined folding portion to define a contacting portion for getting in contact with the wearer's leg,

each of said contacting portion, and standing portion is provided with at least one of said stretching members, and

when the wearer wears said article, said standing cuff stands toward the wearer's leg due to the stretching force of the stretching members, while the side flap between the side edge of the absorbent core and the base line is deformed.

28. (New) The disposal absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein at a front end portion and at a back end portion in a longitudinal direction of said article, said standing portion is fixed on the article, and said contacting portion is fixed on said standing portion.

29. (New) The disposal absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein two or more said stretching members are arranged on said contacting portion so as to be spaced from each other in a direction from said folding portion to a distal end of the contacting portion, and two or more said stretching member are also arranged on said standing portion so as to be spaced from each other in a direction from said base line to said folding portion.

30. (New) A disposable absorbent article comprising:  
an absorbent structure;  
at least one standing cuff having a free portion for getting in contact with a wearer's leg;  
and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands toward the wearer's leg when a wearer wears said article, wherein

said free portion has a base line along a longitudinal edge of said absorbent structure, and comprises a standing portion extending from the base line toward a longitudinal centerline of said article, the free portion, other than the standing portion, folding laterally outward away from the longitudinal centerline at a predetermined folding portion to define a contacting portion for getting in contact with the wearer's leg, and

said stretching members are provided on said contact portion and said standing portion, respectively, said stretching members on said contact portion arranged so as to be spaced from

each other in a direction from said folding portion to a distal end of the contacting portion, and said stretching members on said standing portion arranged so as to be spaced from each other in a direction from said base line to said folding portion, said stretching members on said contacting portion having a diameter smaller than, and having contractility larger than, that of said stretching members on said standing portion.

31. (New) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure including an absorbent core, said absorbent structure being disposed between a liquid pervious sheet and a liquid impervious sheet;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion for getting in contact with a wearer's leg; and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands toward the wearer's leg when a wearer wears said article, wherein

said liquid pervious sheet and liquid impervious sheet outwardly extend beyond a side edge of said absorbent core to form a side flap,

said free portion has a base line on said side flap, and comprises a standing portion extending from the base line toward a longitudinal centerline of said article along said liquid pervious sheet, the free portion, other than the standing portion, folding laterally outward away from the longitudinal centerline at a predetermined folding portion to define a contacting portion for getting in contact with the wearer's leg,

said folding portion is located outside of an area over the absorbent core, and

each of said contacting portion and said standing portion is provided with at least one of said stretching members.

32. (New) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure;

a side flap laterally extending from a side edge of said absorbent structure;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion for getting in contact with a wearer, said free portion having a base line on said side flap, comprising a two-layer sheet and a water proof sheet disposed between layers of the two-layer sheet, and extending from said base line toward a longitudinal centerline of said article; and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands toward the wearer when the wearer wears said article, at least one of said stretching members extending along a distal edge of said free portion, and another extending between said base line and a longitudinal centerline of said free portion, wherein

an effective stretching length of said stretching member extending between said base line and said longitudinal centerline of said free portion are shorter than that of said stretching member extending along the distal edge of said free portion.

33. (New) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 32, wherein the height of said free portion is at least 10 mm.

34. (New) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 32, wherein said stretching member extending between said base line and said longitudinal centerline of said free portion has stretching stress larger than that of said stretching member extending along the distal edge of said free portion.

35. (New)                    The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 32, wherein  
when the elongation of a portion provided with said stretching member extending along  
the distal edge of said free portion is 60 % to 150 %, the stretching stress of said portion is 0.10  
N to 1.30 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of 100 mm),

when the elongation of a portion provided with said stretching member extending  
between said base line and said longitudinal centerline of said free portion is 60 % to 150 %, the  
stretching stress of said portion is 0.20 N to 2.00 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of  
100 mm), and

said stretching stress of said latter portion is stronger than that of said former portion.

36. (New)                    A disposable absorbent article comprising:  
an absorbent structure including an absorbent core;  
at least one standing cuff having a free portion for getting in contact with a wearer, said  
free portion having a base line from which said free portion extends, said base line extending  
along a longitudinal end of said absorbent structure;

one or more first stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so  
that said free portion stands toward the wearer when the wearer wears said article; and

second stretching member for deforming said longitudinal end of said absorbent  
structure, said second stretching member provided between the base line of said at least one  
standing cuff and the longitudinal centerline of said article.

37. (New)                    The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein a plane-gathering cuff is provided outboard with respect to said standing cuff.

38. (New)                    The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein a plane-gathering cuff is not provided outboard with respect to said standing cuff.

39. (New)                    A disposable absorbent article comprising:  
an absorbent structure including an absorbent core, said absorbent structure being disposed between a liquid pervious sheet and a liquid impervious sheet, said liquid pervious sheet longitudinally extending beyond said absorbent structure to form a waist flap;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion for getting in contact with a wearer's waist, said free portion comprising a sheet separately provided on said waist flap, having a base line on said waist flap, and extending from said base line along the liquid pervious sheet; and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands over said absorbent structure to get in contact with the wearer's waist when a wearer wears said article, at least one of said stretching members extending along a distal edge of said free portion, and another extending between said base line and a longitudinal centerline of said free portion, wherein

said stretching member extending between the base line and the longitudinal centerline of said free portion has contraction force stronger than that of said stretching member extending along the distal edge of said free portion.

40. (New) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein gathering means is not provided on said waist flap.

41. (New) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein said free portion of said standing cuff has the longitudinal length of at least 10 mm.

42. (New) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein when the elongation of a portion provided with said stretching member extending along the distal edge of said free portion is 20 % to 90 %, the stretching stress of said portion is 0.05 N to 1.00 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of 100 mm),

when the elongation of a portion provided with the stretching member extending between the base line and the longitudinal centerline of said free portion is 20 % to 90 %, the stretching stress of said portion is 0.10 N to 1.50 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of 100 mm), and

said stretching stress of said latter portion is larger than that of said former portion.

43. (New) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein said standing cuff further comprises a fixed portion extending from said base line to a predetermined location for fixing said standing cuff on said waist flap,

a distance between said predetermined location and an end of said waist flap is from 1 mm to 40 mm.

44. (New) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein



the sheet of said free portion is a two-layer sheet, and  
said stretching member extending along the distal edge of said free portion and said stretching member extending between the base line and the longitudinal centerline of said free portion are fixed between layers of the two-layer-sheet.

45. (New) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion for getting in contact with a wearer's waist, said free portion having a base line, along an edge of said absorbent structure, from which said free portion extends, said free portion comprising a two-layer sheet and a water proof sheet disposed between layers of the two-layer sheet; and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands toward the wearer's waist when a wearer wears said article, at least one of said stretching members extending along a distal edge of said free portion and another extending between said base line and a longitudinal centerline of said free portion, respectively.

46. (New) The disposal absorbent article as defined in Claim 45, wherein the stretching member extending between the base line and the longitudinal centerline of said free portion has contraction force stronger than that of said stretching member extending along the distal edge of said free portion.

47. (New) The disposal absorbent article as defined in Claim 36, wherein at least one of said first stretching members is arranged to extend along a distal edge of said free portion, and

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another is arranged to extend between said base line and a longitudinal centerline of said free portion.